

Mountaineer

Vol. 61, No. 20

Published in the interest of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson community
Visit the Fort Carson Web site at www.carson.army.mil

May 22, 2003



Photo by Spc. Jon Wiley

A special forces soldier reunites with his 3-year-old daughter Sidney Sunday after spending months in Iraq fighting the War on Terror and participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

10th SF returns

Green Berets battle al-Qaida in Iraq

by Spc. Jon Wiley
Mountaineer staff

After months spent in northern Iraq battling terrorist forces allied with al-Qaida as well as regular Iraqi soldiers, members of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) returned to Fort Carson this Friday and Sunday.

A jet carrying about 100 soldiers from the 3rd Battalion touched down at Colorado Springs Municipal Airport's Jet Center Sunday just after 8 p.m. Immediately after stepping off the aircraft, the soldiers were greeted by Col. Simeon Trombitas, garrison commander, Fort Carson, and then herded into chartered buses that took them to the special forces headquarters area, where dozens of family members had assembled. Other members of the nearly 450-strong battalion returned May 16.

Family members gave the returning soldiers a hero's welcome Sunday night. Shouts of "daddy!" echoed throughout the headquarters area the moment the buses entered it, even managing to drown out the "Ballad of the Green Beret," which was blaring over loudspeakers in the back-

ground.

Upon seeing her husband disembark his bus, one woman ran to her husband and warmly embraced him before handing him each of their four children.

The Green Berets deployed to Iraq in early March, where they were able to achieve a number of key objectives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terror by working closely with Kurdish guerillas, said Lt. Col. Ken Tovo, 3rd Battalion commander.

"Over a period of about three weeks of operations, we were able to neutralize a terrorist organization with al-Qaida support and al-Qaida participation and then do our own bit to defeat part of the Iraqi Army and prevent them from influencing things in the south," Tovo said.

Before facing off with anywhere from 60,000 to 70,000 Iraqi soldiers, the 10th Special Forces soldiers dislodged a terrorist organization known as Ansar al-Islam with the aid of around 20,000 fighters from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan known as

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Vanity Fair pampers, helps spouses relax

by Spc. Stacy Harris
Mountaineer staff

Most often, when people think of the military, they think of the servicemembers who serve our country. But, the spouses who support the soldiers are a very important part of the military community as well.

The Vanity Fair, May 13 at the Armed Forces YMCA from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., gave the spouses a chance to get the much needed recognition.

"It's a day to kind of treat the spouses during a time that's stressful for the spouses," said Jeanne Koss, Army Community Service.

The Vanity Fair was held to show appreciation for the spouses, and was a joint event in collaboration with Fort Carson, the Armed Services YMCA, Peterson Air Force Base,

Schriever Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy, Koss said.

There was an array of activities going on throughout the day — and everything was free. Spouses could get haircuts, massages, facials and manicures. There were also information booths ranging from crafts to health and fitness.

"These are the kind of things to pamper themselves and relieve stress," Koss said. "It's a cost-free day that makes them do something that makes them feel good about themselves."

Antonio Vilorio, owner of Viva Salon and a military retiree, said he thought this type of event was important for the spouses. His company has been doing the Vanity Fair for

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Photo by Spc. Stacy Harris

Emma Donato, Fort Carson family member, paints a flower pot at the Vanity Fair May 13. This was part of a craft booth sponsored by Army Community Service.

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Mounted color guard members put horses through their paces.

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Historic shopping district attracts visitors to "Territory Days" fest.

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What's new

The *Mountaineer* office will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Deadline for ads is Tuesday at noon for the May 30 issue.

Army Ball

Only 16 days until the Army Ball. Mark your calendars and watch for ticket information in the *Mountaineer*.

Counting my blessings in Mosul

by Pfc. James Matise
Army News Service

MOSUL, Iraq — Tonight I watched the sun set on the glowing Tigris River, and as I smelled the marshland water in the cool breeze that washed over me, I wondered if a few months ago, Saddam Hussein himself wasn't watching the same scene — I am sitting on his balcony, after all.

After months of vehicle hoods, tents and foxholes, the ground and concrete schoolhouse floors, nasty critters, stray dogs and sandstorms, I'm sleeping in a palace tonight overlooking the lights of Mosul.

It's incredible to look back. We've accomplished much in the past month. We've liberated a country, broken the back of a firmly established totalitarian regime, begun to provide for the masses and are teaching a nation how to stand on its feet. I've had so many experiences, seen and done so many exciting, strange and sometimes crazy things; I cannot begin to describe them.

Some might say we had a little luck; others would say the campaign was simply well-planned. I couldn't say whether luck was a factor, but looking back, I see many things I am thankful for having happened:

For the successful campaign of the coalition forces, who freed the Iraqi people from 30 years of oppression in less than 30 days. The smiles and cheers of the resilient citizens I've met in An Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad and Mosul, and their

iron will to learn how to support themselves without the Ba'ath Party infrastructure, are all the reasons I need for being here. For their happiness, their kind hospitality, the little girl who gave me a rose, I'm thankful.

For the leadership of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), my fellow Screaming Eagles, who had little time to prepare but were still able to successfully orchestrate the unique capabilities we have so that we could participate in Iraq's liberation.

For the 3rd Infantry Division, whose tanks charged relentlessly across the Iraqi desert and set the fastest invasion pace ever seen. Behind them, the 101st Airborne Division was able to set up fuel points that enabled our helicopter-heavy brigades to conduct combat air assaults and allowed our Apaches to strike deep into the ranks of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

For the Marines, especially for sticking it out at Al Nasiriyah, the bloodiest battle in the war with the possible exception of Al Basrah.

For the Kurdish Peshmerga, who dared to enter the fight after failing before and facing the wrath of Saddam Hussein, and for being victorious.

For the Air Force and Navy, who took the skies over Iraq and whose bombing campaign swiftly cut off the regime's ability to communicate with its forces.

For the Iraqi soldiers who, faced with torture and death if they were caught, braved those risks and capitulated. Those

who realized Saddam wasn't worth fighting for will live to participate in the building of a better Iraq.

For the weapons of mass destruction that were not used, even though our intelligence said they would be. Perhaps they heeded our warnings, or perhaps we eliminated their capability to unleash them early on in the war.

For the Patriot missile batteries from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas. The new Patriot Advanced Capability 3 technology has been targeted with harsh criticism, but all I know is that it kept Iraqi missiles from hitting us.

For the safe return of our prisoners of war — roughed up, but alive.

For the opportunity to take time and grieve with my brothers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, when we lost Capt. Chris Seifert during a grenade attack in Kuwait. It really helped speed the healing process and prepared us for what could lie ahead for any one of us. We must carry on the work of the living, but not forget the fallen, the most noble among us.

For the fact that nobody has planned my memorial service yet, as well as almost 250,000 others. I've been shot at enough to distinguish an incoming AK-47 round from one fired away from me, enough to earn my Hostile Fire Pay five times over. And many servicemembers have endured more than I. To the higher being in all of our lives, for seeing that so many soldiers on both sides of the fight

escaped harm — including me — I thank you.

For those brave souls who will never return home, who loved their country more than themselves and mercy more than life. We must always remember that those soldiers, These servicemembers and their families paid a price so high it can never be repaid.

For those men and women I serve beside, who understand and have seen the ultimate sacrifice we all may be called upon to make for America, yet choose to serve anyway.

Certainly not least, I am thankful for the support we've been given by those who are back home, by the families and friends of soldiers and perfect strangers. For the letters, the care packages, and the rallies. Americans, you are the ones who remind us what we're fighting for.

Our work in Iraq is far from over, true, and we're not out of danger yet. Even as I write, the night sky is painted with the bright orange and red streaks of tracer rounds, and sporadic small-arms fire crackles like popcorn, sometimes interrupted by the quivering explosion of a grenade. And there's no telling what tomorrow might bring.

So tonight, I'll sleep on my cot in this palace, listening to those sounds in a foreign, faraway land, and count my blessings that when I do wake up, tomorrow I'll be one day closer to coming home.

Editor's note: Pfc. James Matise is a public affairs specialist with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Sound off?

Why is it important to talk to your children about drugs?



"Because drugs are so prevalent in our schools and so dangerous to kids starting out. Drugs can lead to other addictions and sets them up for a life time of heartache."

Chris Lull
Family member



"I think it's important to talk to children about drugs because they have so much to look forward to and using drugs would ruin their chances for success."

Master Sgt. Belinda Johnson
HHC, 43rd ASG



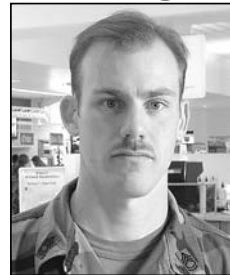
"You teach kids so that they'll know the consequences of using drugs and the negative effects."

Jerry Stafford
Fort Carson Family Housing



"So they're aware and so when they're confronted they can steer clear of drugs."

Lynet Sills
Family member



"Drugs aren't a good thing to get into — all they do is cause problems."

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ostrander
10th Special Forces Group

MOUNTAINEER

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All correspondence or queries regarding advertising and subscriptions should be directed to Gowdy Printcraft Press, Inc., 22 North Sierra Madre, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, phone (719) 634-1593. The *Mountaineer's* editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office, 1550, room 2180, Fort Carson, CO 80913-5119, phone (719) 526-4144.

Releases from outside sources are so indicated. Army News Service (ARNEWS) releases are received from Headquarters, Department of the Army. The deadline for submissions to the *Mountaineer* is close of business the Friday before the issue the submission will appear in. The *Mountaineer* staff reserves the right to edit the submissions for newspaper style, clarity and typographical errors.

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News



Photo by Spc. Jon Wiley

Col. Simeon Trombitas, garrison commander, Fort Carson, greets a returning 10th Special Forces soldier at the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport Sunday.

Return

From Page 1

Peshmerga.

In three days of battle beginning March 28, the Green Berets and their Peshmerga allies devastated the radical Islamist fighters who had links to Osama bin Laden, killing several hundred and forcing others to flee to Iran, Tovo said. The organization menaced the region for two years, and approximately one-tenth of them were Al Qaeda members who had escaped Afghanistan in 2001, Tovo said.

After neutralizing that threat, the Green Berets and the Peshmerga went on to liberate several Iraqi cities, including Kirkuk, an oil center and the fourth-largest city in Iraq, Tovo said.

"We got quite a lot accomplished with a

relatively small amount of folks. (Using unconventional tactics), we created a northern front out of a small number," Tovo said.

Tovo praised the Peshmerga along with the Special Forces for the victories. He said the Kurdish guerillas provided them with full support and cooperation.

He also said the unit was fortunate to have suffered only minor casualties over the course of the deployment. Two soldiers received shrapnel wounds from a mortar round but were able to return to duty the next day, he said.

Even though virtually all of the 3rd Battalion are back at the Mountain Post, the 10th Special Forces involvement in the region is not finished.

"There are portions of the 2nd Battalion who are still there who will be conducting ongoing missions for some time," Tovo said.

Spouse

From Page 1

the past five years.

"Why? because I feel spouses don't get enough recognition," he said. "Society takes a toll on them. I know my wife had a tough time (when I was in the military). This is my way to give back to the community and the military."

The Vanity Fair attracted about 250 spouses during last year's event. This year, Koss said she believes is going to be the most successful one so far.

Military spouses also commented

on how they thought the Vanity Fair was a great event.

"It's been really great," said Lorna Conlisk, family member. "I think it shows support from everybody in our community, to the military and their families for everything they go through."

In addition, the family members thought it was a great way to relieve stress during the stressful times of the deployments.

"There are so many great things here," said Tina Williams, family member. "It's something to get away and relax for ourselves."



Photo by Spc. Stacy Harris

Antonio Vilorio, owner, Viva Salon, cuts the hair of a military spouse during the Vanity Fair May 13. Haircuts were just a portion of the event. There were also massages, facials and manicures being done.

Soldiers ensure Iraqis get U.N. food

by Spc. Justin A. Carmack
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq — As the war efforts come to an end, more missions tasked to soldiers will be humanitarian based. Members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, are already playing an important role in the humanitarian efforts here in Iraq.

They are working to provide security to convoys containing food for the United Nations humanitarian relief as well as security duties at the U.N. food storage point in Ar Ramadi. The U.N. food program was implemented in 1996 and has been in place in Iraq since it began.

The program continues to progress as war efforts wind to a close. As days pass, food continues to roll in under the watch of soldiers.

“Our soldiers are pulling security for the facility as well as convoys. It is our responsibility to make sure that food gets to where it needs to be,” said 1st Lt. Robert Pratt of the 2nd Bn., 5th FA.

The food brought in by the U.N. arrives at a port and is then transported to storage facilities. Along the route, soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 5th FA act as

escorts to ensure the safe arrival of the foods to a storage facility in Al Ramadi.

“It is not the job we thought we were going to have. But our soldiers are proud that they are doing something good for the people of Iraq,” said Pratt.

The Ar Ramadi site is continuously receiving shipments of food which will later be distributed to the residents after clearance is received from U.N. officials in Baghdad.

U.N. official Saad Jumana Farhan added, “Recent food shipments have contained a variety of foods such as flour, rice, vegetable oil and lentels. We are expecting other foods to arrive later.”

Citizens from Al Fallujah to Al Qaim will receive provisions from this storage site.

The amount of supplies which each family will receive is determined by the number of beneficiaries within the family. Once food reaches the families, the job of the U.N. and the 2nd Bn., 5th FA is finished.

“U.S. soldiers and our people have a competitive and friendly relationship,” said Farhan. “We are happy to work with the soldiers.”



Photo by Spc. Justin A. Carmack

Saad Jumana Farhan, left, and 1st Lt. Robert Pratt of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, discuss distribution of food.

Military

100 Days of safety

Mountain Post soldiers get ready for summer by promoting safety, reminding everyone of dangers associated with warmer season

by Sgt. Roy Gomez

14th Public Affairs Detachment

Camping, fishing, whitewater rafting and rock climbing — if it's done in the great outdoors, Colorado is the perfect setting. But with its mountains, rivers and parks, Colorado also has different factors that can turn the safest of outdoor recreation into an accident waiting to happen.

To help Fort Carson soldiers, families and civilians prevent accidents associated with seasonal haz-

ards during the summer, the Fort Carson Safety Office executed a summer safety program during sergeant's time training May 15.

"People forget about the hazards ... summer is here and people are too busy thinking about the activities in Colorado," said Jenny James, Fort Carson Garrison Safety Specialist.

During the sergeant's time training, unit leaders discussed the summer hazards with the help of a Power Point presentation. Soldiers and Fort Carson personnel were given methods to help eliminate or minimize risks from lightning, heat injuries, water activities and privately-owned vehicles/motorcycles and other summer activities.

"This is good information," said Pfc. Joshua Chipps, U.S. Army Garrison. "Some people aren't

aware of all the hazards out there. Even I've learned something today."

According to the Fort Carson Safety Office, the single greatest factor in reducing risks and preventing accidents is a proactive, caring and engaged chain of command with their soldiers. Therefore, by making unit leaders remind their soldiers about the hazards that can harm or kill them, Fort Carson leaders hope to reduce the number of accidents and incidents from the previous year. Within the last 12 years, there have only been two years with no fatalities on Fort Carson — 1993 and 2000.

During the upcoming months, by constantly reminding everyone about the hazards, Fort Carson soldiers can make it through the summer with memories of a happier and safer time.

Add safety to the recipe

- Read owner's manual thoroughly
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by the grill
- Use proper type of tank and fuel
- Never add fluid to coals once they're lit
- Always cook in a well-ventilated area
- Keep grill away from tents, brushes and dry leaves
- Supervise children around grills
- Barbecue only in open, well ventilated areas
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Be extra careful on windy days
- Use proper methods to start a fire
- Dispose of charcoal properly
- Don't wear loose clothing that could catch fire
- Never place cooked food on the same platter that held raw food
- Be extra careful on windy days
- An instant-read thermometer is the best way to check meat doneness



Military Briefs

Hours of operation

Information, Tickets and Registration Office and the Outdoor Recreation Complex Information Desk have been combined in an effort to better serve customers. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 526-2083 or 526-5366.

For official travel services, Carlson-Wagonlit Travel, in building 1012 on Long Street, is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and until 3 p.m. on training holidays.

Travelers are reminded to bring three copies of travel orders when picking up tickets for official travel. Soldiers and family members must have one original and one copy of their "travelopes" and three copies of each order, to include amendments, for overseas permanent changes of station. If you cannot pick up your tickets in person, you can fax a copy of orders to 526-1142 or 576-5262 for issuance of an e-ticket.

Please call 576-5188 to confirm receipt of faxed orders. Tickets will not be issued without orders. If you do not use your ticket, you must bring it and two

copies of your orders. If you were issued an e-ticket and did not travel, you still must bring in two copies of orders to process a refund for the unused ticket.

Legal Assistance hours — Hours at the Legal Assistance are back to normal. Walk-ins to see attorneys are Mondays and Fridays only; sign in is at 12:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Powers of Attorney and notaries are done on a walk-in basis 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

New CIF Hours

Effective immediately, individuals may conduct their business at Central Issue Facility (draw, turn-in, DX) during the following times:

Building 330: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m.; Tuesdays 8-11 a.m.; Wednesdays 8-11 a.m.

Building 309 (desert items): Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8 to 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. There may be an occasional change to the hours if there is a large unit mobilizing or demobilizing. The change will be put out through e-mail, mobilization meetings, command sergeant major channels and signs at CIF.

Turn-in of complete TA-50 (End of Time in Service, Permanent Change of Station) is by appointment; call 526-5512.

Bulk issue or turn-in of items by supply sergeants must still be done by

appointment. Through Monday those appointments will continue to be made with Maj. Michelle McKenna at 524-1167. Starting Tuesday, appointments will be made with Connie Thompson CIF at 524-2006. The CIF will be closed except for emergencies, call McKenna, through noon Monday for its annual inventory.

Briefings

Special Forces briefings — Special Forces recruiting briefings are Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. at the Grant Library for males in the pay grades E-3 to E-7 with a general test score of 100 or higher and who are U.S. citizens.

ETS/Transition briefing schedule — In order for soldiers to receive their end of time in service orders, soldiers must attend an End of Term of Service briefing. Soldiers may sign in at 7:15 a.m. and the briefing begins at 7:30 a.m. in building 1118, room 317. For more information, call the Transition Center at 526-2240 or 526-4298.

The Commanding General's Newcomers' Brief is the third Wednesday of each month, 1 to 3 p.m. at McMahon Theater.

The following are dates for upcoming briefings: Wednesday.

There will be a local Officer Candidate School board Wednesday and Friday. This board is required for all applicants. All participants must report in

Class A uniform. All packets must be turned in to the 502nd Personnel Services Battalion, Personnel Actions Section, building 1118, room 208, no later than yesterday on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call Sgt. Jacklyn Christensen at 526-1906.

Laundry Service

Post Laundry Service — The Post Laundry service provides free laundry and dry cleaning service to soldiers for government-owned property only. Items issued by the Central Issue Facility should be cleaned at the Post Laundry prior to turn in. Soldiers are reminded to allow extra time for items to return from the cleaners. It is not recommended to pick up your equipment on the same day as the scheduled CIF appointment.

The turn around for the service is 72 hours. No appointment is necessary. The Post Laundry will not clean personal items like BDUs, boots, tent pegs, canteens, entrenching tools or wet-weather gear. Material TA-50 items that can be washed include: sleeping bag assembly, chemical suits, Gortex, ruck sacks, coveralls, CVC jackets and most web equipment. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. For more information, call 526-8806 or 526-8804.

Editor's note: The deadline for submitting "briefs" to the Mountaineer is 5 p.m. Friday before publication.

Returning troops get counseling, reunion training

by Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians returning from Iraq will receive a lot of help in transitioning from the stress of combat operations to normal garrison life under a new Army plan.

Brig. Gen. Steven Schook, director of G1's Human Resources Policy Directorate, announced the implementation of the Deployment Cycle Support Contingency Plan at a Pentagon press conference May 13.

"America provides to the Army its most precious thing — its people — and we as an institution are going to do all we can to ensure that we bring our people back from doing America's duty and get them ready to be fully reintegrated back into American society," Schook said.

The plan calls for returning soldiers and civilians to remain with their unit or organization through mandatory medical and mental health screenings, as well as reunion training designed to ease soldiers

move back into family relationships before getting on a homeward-bound plane. Unit leaders will also use a new "tip card" to screen their soldiers for any personal problems — suicidal thoughts, financial troubles or possible causes of strained family relationships.

"They may find if they've been gone six months to a year that their wife may have exerted a greater role in running the household," Schook said. "The kids have adjusted to the wife's new role in that household. So as they come back, they are going to find a different set of conditions in that home."

Family members will also be offered the opportunity to receive reunion training and to identify any issues in their family that might cause friction when the soldier returns through family readiness groups.

The screenings and reunion training, overseas and at home, will allow leaders to manage potential friction points for returning soldiers before they become serious problems, Schook said.

Another feature of the plan formally hands off identified soldiers' issues from leaders overseas to an official or agency at home station to follow up and

resolve as needed, Schook said.

The Army hasn't always done a good job of following through on issues identified during deployments — often leaving it up to individual soldiers to follow through once they got home, he said. Now, a soldier with a known financial issue, for example, will have an appointment with an Army Community Service financial counselor waiting for him upon return instead of maybe or maybe not making an appointment himself. That soldier will now have to see the counselor prior to taking any leave.

Once home, soldiers remain on duty with their units for up to 10 days — spending half of each day undergoing more integration training and evaluations — with the remaining half day free to spend with family or to take care of personal business. Once all members of the returning unit complete the plan's mandatory tasks, the soldiers are free to take "block leave," usually lasting two weeks.

In the past, soldiers returning from lengthy overseas deployments generally conducted an inventory of

See Transition, Page 7

Dining Schedule

Week of May 24 to 30

Weekday Dining Facilities

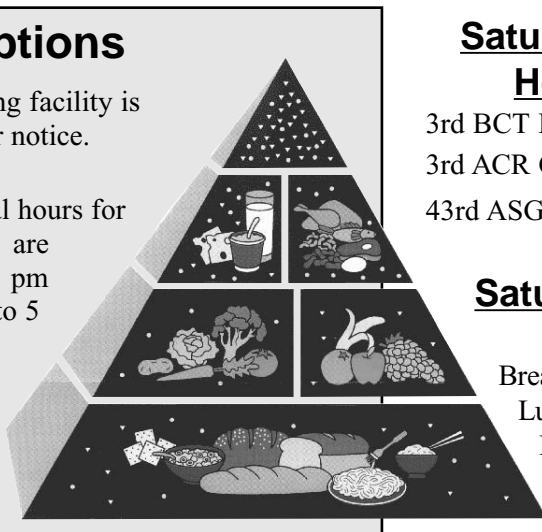
43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)
3rd ACR Butts Army Airfield (building 9612)
3rd BCT Iron Bde. (building 2061)

Weekday Meal Hours

Breakfast 6 to 9 a.m. (All facilities)
7 to 9 a.m. (Cheyenne Mtn. Inn)
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Exceptions

- 10th SFG (A) dining facility is closed until further notice.
- Building 1040 meal hours for May 23 to May 26 are brunch 10 am to 1 pm and dinner 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Dining Facilities

3rd BCT Iron BDE. (building 2061)
3rd ACR Cav. House. (building 2461)
43rd ASG (building 1040)

Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Meal Hours

Breakfast 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Army lifts OIF 'stop movement' order

From Army News Service

WASHINGTON — With the victory in Iraq, the Army is lifting its “stop movement” order issued earlier this year so that soldiers will soon be able to report to their next assignment.

The “stop loss” measures — keeping soldiers in certain job specialties and in selected units from leaving active duty — is also expected to be incrementally lifted in the near future.

Between December and February, the Army executed an active-component unit stop move and stop loss to stabilize forces preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Personnel Command officials said. With the cessation of OIF major combat operations, they said the Army is lifting “stop move” to again distribute soldiers across the force, to

satisfy readiness and professional development needs.

Allowing soldiers to change duty stations will support the readiness of forces in Korea, Army Transformation, the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams, the Longbow Apache helicopter units and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles program, officials said. They said this will also allow soldiers to move to drill sergeant and other instructor positions, become recruiters and serve in joint assignments.

For most soldiers redeploying home from Iraq and other OIF countries, PERSCOM's goal is to provide a 90-day stabilization period before changing assignments, personnel officials said. But they said soldiers may voluntarily waive the 90-day stabilization period, if

they want.

PERSCOM will continue to phase deferments and adjust report dates as necessary to support on-going OIF operations, officials said.

“Stop-move” for officers will be lifted in phases, officials said. In February, PERSCOM deferred all officers in OIF units with report dates of March 1 to May 31.

Officers with old report dates in June and July will now have a new report date of Aug. 31. PERSCOM will make a determination later this summer on whether to defer the move of officers with original report dates in August.

The intent of the phased approach is to limit officer personnel turbulence, while at the same time preserve planned assignments and minimize disruptions

to officer professional development timelines, officials said. They said they will try to support a 14-day overlap between incoming officers and incumbents in the OIF area of operations.

Soldiers scheduled to attend schools will usually not have their report dates deferred, officials said, unless the school adjusts its class dates.

Report dates will not be automatically adjusted for officers selected for command or for assignments in Central Command, Korea, Special Operations Command, Northern Command, and special management units, PERSCOM officials said.

More details on lifting “stop move” can be found in a MILPER message at <http://perscomnd04.army.mil/milperms.gs.nsf>.

Transition

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equipment, given a safety briefing and then were released on block leave. In some cases, commanders requested and got chaplains, family advocacy counselors and other specialists to brief soldiers prior to releasing them if those services were available.

Because the plan calls for many previously optional services to be mandatory and to avoid overloading home station staffs, the Army is prepared to augment those staffs “to focus forces at time and place of our choosing” with specialists from other places in the Army, Schook said.

Schook acknowledged last summer's string of five murders involving Fort Bragg, N.C., soldiers who had recently returned from operations in Afghanistan played a role in developing the DCS contingency plan. However, he said, it was not the only or even primary

factor considered in developing the plan. Developing the plan was simply the right thing to do in an Army that has changed significantly since the Gulf War, Schook said.

One of those changes has been heavier reliance of the reserve component in current operations, at home and abroad. Another change has been the shift of a primarily unmarried force to a force which more than 50 percent are married. And, an operational tempo with an increased need for deployments has also played a role, Schook said.

The plan doesn't stop with the returning troops being sent home on leave. Returning soldiers, civilians and their family members will have access to a (800) based employee assistance program for a year after returning.

The EAP offers directions of where to get all types of services in the local community, mental health screening on the phone and up to six free face-

to-face mental health visits with a professional outside the chain of command. This is of particular importance to the reserve component where units may be in armories hundreds of miles from an active-duty installation and thus do not have access to ACS or the medical system active-duty soldiers do, Schook said. It also allows a significant amount of privacy for soldiers or civilians who are concerned that seeking mental health assistance may impact their careers. The exception to privacy includes anything required by law to be reported, such as the commission of a crime.

While Schook wasn't ready to announce what units are coming home first and when, he did say the (800) EAP number will be up and running by early June. A similar program is already working for the Fort Bragg community under a separate contract. Likewise, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command has started using an EAP phone/Web-based system for initial-entry soldiers and their family in the past year.

Greenback

Open season for Thrift Savings Plan

by 1st Lt. Theodore Stutz
4th Finance Battalion

Open season is now in progress for the Thrift Savings Plan until June 30. The TSP is a long-term savings program that allows soldiers to invest their money and offers immediate tax deferral advantages similar to those in a civilian 401(k) plan. You can find the latest TSP information on the TSP Web site located at www.tsp.gov.

Soldiers may start, stop or change their TSP request by going to their personnel clerk, who will forward a certified copy to finance for processing. Soldiers can change most any part of their TSP contributions by accessing their MyPay account at www.dfas.mil/mypay.

Once the Thrift Savings Board receives soldiers' contributions, the soldier will receive a welcome memo and personal identification number so future fund allocations can be made on-line.

TSP for mobilized servicemembers

Reserve soldiers who are mobilized or called to active duty for more than 30 days have the option to elect or change their TSP within 60 days of the change in status. Reserve component soldiers cannot use MyPay to process these changes/elections.



Withdrawals from Savings Deposit Program

When deployed soldiers return home one of the redeployment issues they need to handle is the withdrawal of their SDP funds. Money can be left in the fund and continue to earn interest for 90 days from the date of return. However, if you want to withdraw the money after the date of return, but before the 90 days, mail a request for withdrawal to the following address: Defense Finance and Accounting Service — Cleveland Center, CODE FMAA, 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland OH 44199-2055. Requests can also be faxed to DSN 580-6924 or commercial (216) 522-6924.

Paying interest on travel claims

Effective May 1, submitting a separate DD Form 1351-2 (Travel voucher and Sub voucher) to claim interest under the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-264) is no longer required. Interest will be computed and paid while the original travel claim is being processed.

Interest is due when the travel claim is not paid within 30 days from the date the reviewer signs a properly completed DD Form 1351-2. The 30-day clock starts when the traveler submits a complete proper travel claim to his/her supervisor/commander or travel approving official. The day that the supervisor/commander or AO receives the claim is day one, and that date will be noted on the DD Form 1351-2,

along with the supervisor's/commander's signature in the appropriate block of the DD Form 1351-2. The 30-day clock stops when the travel claim is paid. The date paid that listed on the Advice of Payment received from the paying office is the last day counted.

To estimate the amount of interest, multiply the number of late days by the daily Prompt Payment Act interest rate. That answer is then multiplied by the final payment amount. The final payment amount is what is due and payable on the final settlement (after deducting any advances, partial payments and interim payments). The current DPPAIR can be found at <https://dfas4dod.dfas.mil/hottopic/latepay3.htm>. Interest payments for less than \$1 will not be paid. When interest is paid, travel offices will prepare a 1099-INT for the Traveler IAW Internal Revenue regulations.

New hours of operation and closure notice for finance

Finance customer service, located in building 1854, will now have the following hours of operation: Mondays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. (only if Thursday is end-of-month payday).

Finance will be closed June 6 all day for our organizational day and minimally staffed the week of June 23 to 27.

Blotter report ...

It's that time again — click it or ticket

by 1st Lt. Melissa Field
Provost Marshal Office

Don't get caught. Law enforcement personnel both on and off-post are looking for people not wearing safety restraints.

Seat belt use on Fort Carson is mandatory and required by Colorado Revised Statute. The majority of soldier fatalities and serious injuries are vehicle related, and most of those are due to soldiers' failure to use proper restraints. Just like all items in a tactical vehicle need to be tied-down, so do people. If your

vehicle rolls, and you are not restrained to your seat, it is highly likely the G-forces will eject you from the vehicle and many times the vehicle will roll over the people ejected. Do not let this happen

to you or any of your family members or friends.

In addition to making sure all adults in the vehicle are safely buckled

up, it is also important to remember all children under the age of 4 or fewer than 40 pounds be in an approved child safety seat. A citation for not wearing your safety belt may only be \$15, but think of what wearing one could save — your life.

Law enforcement torch run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is an international movement created by law enforcement agencies more than 20 years ago to raise money and aware-

ness for Special Olympics athletes. The torch run generates more than \$15 million annually. In Colorado, the money donated has enhanced the quality of life for more than 6,000 athletes statewide. This year's torch run is May 29. The torch will enter Fort Carson at Gate 20 where military police will take the torch from

a Fountain Police Department representative. The MPs will relay the torch to Gate 2 where they will hand it off to Security Forces from Cheyenne

Traffic Roll Up

In the past week, there were 88 total citations:

- 32 for speeding
- 10 for failure to use seat-belts
- 46 for other violations (e.g.: malfunctioning equipment, lack of insurance or registration, expired plates and improper vehicle operation)



Photo by Spc. Matt Millham

Sgt. Eric Fry hands out a ticket to a soldier who wasn't buckled up.

Mountain.

Vehicle registration information

The Vehicle Registration Office located in the Welcome Center will tentatively close permanently at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. The new facility located at

Gate 1 will open at 9 a.m. June 2. The trailer located at Gate 1 will remain open May 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All services, except clearing, are offered at the trailer. Vehicle Registration will be closed Thursday and May 30.

Community

A new kind of high...

Inhalants can destroy life, brain cells

by Spc. Matt Millham

14th Public Affairs Detachment

Children are getting high and their parents are buying.

Nearly every home has a stash of stimulants lurking under a sink, in a desk or in the garage. They are common products put to uncommon and sometimes deadly use. They may be cleaning supplies, magic markers or gasoline, but they are also inhalants.

Inhalants are legal to purchase and to possess, so people looking for a quick, easy high need look no further than the local convenience store for a fix.

"That's probably what makes it most dangerous," said Robert J. Pinner, clinical director of the Army Substance Abuse Program at Fort Carson.

There have been no reported cases of inhalant use at Fort Carson, but, Pinner said, "I think there's probably a lot of that thing happening, but you never see it — just like drinking."

Inhalant use is generally associated with early teens and high school students, said Pinner.

According to the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition Web site, one in five students in the United States will have used an inhalant to get high before reaching the eighth grade. The NIPC site claims inhalants are as popular as marijuana among middle

school students.

In 1996, an estimated 12,178,000 Americans over the age of 11 used inhalants, according to a study by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration conducted between 1994 and 1996.

What all those users don't know can kill them.

The NIPC Web site outlines the damaging effects of inhalant use on the human body. Inhalants can kill brain cells, cause users to lose coordination and sight, decrease the blood's ability to carry oxygen, cause lung damage and heart arrhythmia, damage the liver and kidneys and cause leukemia, deafness or death.

But still, people use inhalants. The effects they are looking for, the loss of inhibition, slight stimulation or loss of consciousness, go hand-in-hand with damage to body systems.

Some signs and symptoms of inhalant use, according to the NIPC Web site, are stains on the body or clothing, spots or sores around the mouth, red or runny eyes or nose, chemical breath odor, a drunk, dazed or dizzy appearance, nausea, loss of appetite, anxiety, excitability and irritability.

Degraded academic performance or loss of motivation to do things they once enjoyed could also indicate a person is using inhalants or other drugs.

The Army Substance Abuse Program at Fort



Inhalant use is deadly because nearly every household has a stash of stimulants lurking under the sink, in a desk or in the garage.

Carson deals not just with servicemembers but also with family members. Parents concerned their child may be abusing inhalants should contact ASAP at 526-2863.

Inhalant users may abuse common products in lieu of illegal drugs because they are easy and cheap to obtain. But the price they pay for sniffing glue or paint is much higher than the tag on the bottle or can.

Angel Fire: Vietnam Veterans' war memorial

by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

The first Vietnam Veterans Memorial is at Angel Fire, N. M. It's on a mountaintop in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range.

Utes say the valley was a warrior resting place.

There's something special about this site. It's hard to put a finger on it; hard to define. But people who've been there say they have felt it.

Vietnam veteran Gus Gerber has felt it.

Other visitors to the memorial at Angel Fire have felt it.

Perhaps it is on sacred ground.

A Huey helicopter is the first thing people see as they approach the memorial from the parking lot. The helicopter is mounted in a steep left bank, low to the ground, in a rescue mode. It seems to be lifting from the trees, just behind the chapel.

The memorial chapel is an unusual three-sided stucco building which dramatically curves and soars from the top of the mountain, stretching 50 feet toward the sky; almost reminiscent of a bird in flight.

Inside, white stucco walls are unbroken except for a narrow window 13-inches wide which splits the wall from floor to ceiling and provides a view of the mountain valley. A simple, narrow white cross 13-feet high is in the chapel.

In the beginning, the chapel was closed at the end of the day. But one morning the founder discovered a message on a scrap of wood, "Why did you lock me out?"

Since then, the chapel has been open 24/7.

John, who spent several tours in Vietnam, discovered the memorial when he saw a sign a few years ago. He's returned about 10 times.

"There's nothing there except memories," he said, which allows him to meditate.

"I like the way it is so quiet. I gather my thoughts. When I go there it is like going into a world of my own."

"(Visiting the memorial) gives me a good feeling; I think about those who didn't come back and I think about the ones who did. It's a place for private thoughts, to process grief."

Robert, a former soldier, remembers his first view of the memorial near the end of a November day. He was impressed by its location on top of a mountain, in almost the middle of nowhere in a sparsely populated part of New Mexico. The graceful curvature of a fence echoed the design of the nearby



Photos by Nel Lampe

A Huey helicopter appears to take an extreme left bank as if taking off from a rescue. The chapel is in front of the helicopter at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Angel Fire.

chapel.

"The helicopter was dramatic. I remember a feeling of emptiness in the chapel and it seemed cold.

"I was both awed and humbled by the visitor center," he said.

About 20 years ago Vietnam Veteran Gus had been retired from the Army and was finding adjustment difficult. He had a hard time finding a job and was finding that being a veteran wasn't helpful in the job search, but quite the opposite. Returning Vietnam veterans had not been welcomed home by American citizens.

Gus finally found a job but still had difficulty coping.

"Some (veterans) can cope, some can't," he said.

Someone at the Veterans' Outreach Office suggested he go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in New Mexico.

Gerber drove the 220 miles to Angel Fire, and upon arrival was disappointed. It didn't look like he'd expected it to and the visitor center wasn't open. He wandered into the chapel and was mesmerized by it.

"I sat and prayed and talked to the walls and stayed all night."

Next morning one of the workers opening the visitor center stepped into the chapel and saw Gus.

"Don't worry, it gets better," she said.

Gus spent all day in the visitor center. "I was thinking and feeling the thoughts of those who didn't make it back.

"It was an awakening for me. The veterans memorial 'spoke to me,'" Gus said.

He looked at the videos, tapestries and the books in the visitor center. "It was a day of memory and people who understood," he said. "I left feeling of awe."

Gus returns to the memorial at Angel Fire several times a year. He estimates he's been there 40 or 50 times.

David Westphall was a 28-year old Marine Corps lieutenant, serving in Vietnam with Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. He was killed May 22, 1968, in an ambush as his squad moved forward to quell an enemy assault. Thirteen members of Company B were killed that day at Quang Tri, and 27 Marines were wounded.

David's father, Victor Westphall, was notified of his son's death while clearing land the family owned near Angel Fire. David had spent his leave there before he left for Vietnam.

Before a week had passed the father was planning a memorial for his son. It would be at Angel Fire. He engaged Architect Ted C. Luna of Santa Fe.

The memorial was dedicated on Veterans' Day in 1971. It honors the men and women who served in the Vietnam War as well as all other American veterans. It was 11 years before the Vietnam Wall Memorial was completed in Washington, D. C.

The visitor center is built into the mountainside just yards from the chapel. The veterans' room includes books, publications and a kiosk, with a computer visitors can use to look up information

See Angel Fire, Page 13



The visitor center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial contains banners and mementos.



Scenes from Vietnam are on the walls of the visitor center at the memorial at Angel Fire.

Community Events

Miscellaneous

Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration — Come celebrate the Asian Pacific Heritage Month at the Elkhorn Conference Center May 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a variety of dances to be performed including Hawaiian, Samoan, Filipino, Micronesia/Guam and belly dancing. There will also be food and displays available.

Grass mowing — Due to budget constraints, grass mowing this season by the Directorate of Public Works, BASOPS contractor, LB&B, will be greatly reduced. The following areas will be the only areas mowed by LB&B: Nelson Boulevard from Gate 1 to Chiles Avenue; Manhart Field; Headquarters building 1430 and Pershing Field. Other building occupants will be required to mow their own grass up to and including 50 feet around their building. For additional information, contact Don Fuhrman at 526-2215.

On-post housing availability — Any family waiting for junior enlisted on-post housing needs to come into the housing office in building 7301 Woodfill Road, room 104, and immediately verify their status on the waiting list, as well as update their contact information. The housing office has several homes becoming available in the very near future. Due to deployments and soldiers changing unit locations, we are having difficulties reaching those soldiers and/or their spouses. Hours of operation are Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or questions, call 526-2323.

ACAP job openings — Army Career and Alumni Program currently has the following jobs listings for interested personnel. For more information about the jobs, call 526-1002.

What: Counterterrorism analyst in Colorado Springs Who: Anyone with a secret security clearance, BA or 3 to 5 years experience

What: Loss Prevention Officer in Colorado Springs, (nationwide positions also available)

What: Heavy equipment mechanics, nationwide opening Who: Anyone with three years experience

What: Turret mechanics in the Middle East Who: 45 Series, DS Level minimum E-5

What: Physician assistant in the Middle East Who: WO preferred, current license required

For more information, contact ACAP at 526-1002.

The Fort Carson Commissary will be closed Memorial Day, and will resume normal hours Tuesday.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will be sponsoring an in-service day June 4, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the CPAC Conference Room. This event will give employees an opportunity to meet with health care representatives and ask questions regarding health care coverage. Representatives include: Pacificare, Kaiser, Mail Handlers and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. For more information, call 526-6971.

Vehicle Loading ramps — From June 2 through July 18, the Directorate of Logistics' Vehicle Storage yard loading ramps, building 8020, can not be used for loading or unloading of vehicles due to

construction. The loading ramps are being upgraded at that time. Units that need loading or unloading of trucks will need to use one of the two docks located on Minick Avenue (behind unit motorpools). For more information, call Allen Jackson, DOL engineering technician, 526-2896, or Roy Hakenberg, 526-6042.

Water restrictions

Fort Carson is currently at Stage II — Level B watering restrictions until further notice due to ongoing drought conditions. The *Mountaineer* will publish detailed, updated watering guidance for Fort Carson when released. For more information on current water restriction or Stage II — Level B watering guidance, visit the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management Web site at www.carson.army.mil/Decam/Homepage.html or log on to the Colorado Springs Utilities web site at www.csu.org.

Claims against the estate of:

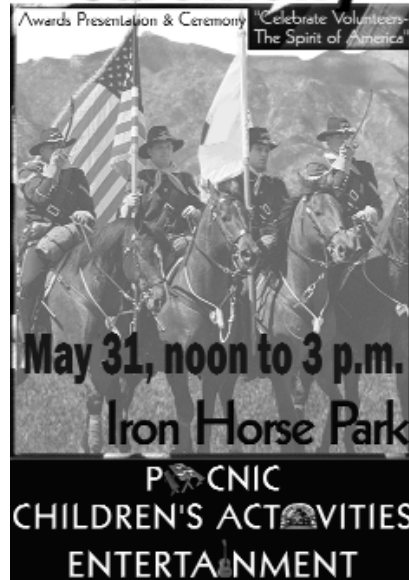
Sgt. 1st Class Deborah L. Johnsen: With deepest regrets to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Deborah L. Johnsen, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate should contact Capt. Chad M. Callahan, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 759th Military Police Battalion, 526-5106.

Staff Sgt. Efreem L. Williamson: With deepest regret to the family of Staff Sgt. Efreem L. Williamson, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate would contact 1st Lt. Christina R. Pagano at 526-1585 or 526-1591.

Chief Warrant Officer Brian K. Van Dusen: With deepest regret to the family of Chief Warrant Officer Brian K. Van Dusen, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate

Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center
526-4590
FORT CARSON

Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony



would contact Capt. Jae Pyon at 524-3529.

Cpl. Richard Paul Carl: With deepest regret to the family of Cpl. Richard Paul Carl, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 2nd Lt. Adam Grow at 524-3529.

Chief Warrant Officer Hans N. Gukeisen: With deepest regret to the family of Chief Warrant Officer Hans N. Gukeisen, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 1st Lt. Daniel R. Thompson at 382-8858 or 526-1954.

Angel Fire

From Page 12



Photo by Nel Lampe

The chapel at Angel Fire seems to reach for the sky.

about friends or relatives who might have served in Vietnam.

There's also a small gift shop, in which T-shirts, hats, pins, replicas of the chapel and Vietnamese ribbon caps can be purchased. A statuette entitled "Dear Mom and Dad," can be purchased. The life-size statue will soon be placed on the grounds.

The main room is filled with tapestries, flags and banners. The names of military units are emblazoned on the banners. A map of Vietnam is posted. Scenes of Vietnam life are on the walls. Pictures are displayed as are rubbings of names from the Vietnam Wall Memorial.

A video of letters from Vietnam is shown in the video room.

The visitor center is open in winter from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and in summer from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. More than 100,000 visitors are at the memorial each year, many of them during Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Memorial Day ceremonies and activities include a two-mile march, a choir, a National Guard Band, remarks, presentation of a play, "Carved in Stone," and a candlelight vigil.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is five miles from Angel Fire Ski Area in New Mexico, 28 miles east of Taos and 80 miles from the Colorado/New Mexico border at Raton. It is on Highway 64 and is near Eagle Nest, N.M. It is about 230 miles from Fort Carson.

The phone number is (505) 377-6900. The Web site is www.vietnamveteransnationalmemorial.org.

Officers' spouses: Giving back to Mountain Post community

by Marie Langford
Fort Carson Officers' Spouses
Charitable Association

Armed with state of the art equipment, countless hours of training and Old Glory sewn on the shoulders of their desert camouflage uniforms, many Fort Carson soldiers are leading the way on the war against terrorism.

Unfortunately, with this pursuit comes family separation. While efforts were made prior to the deployment to organize finances, fill out mountains of needed paperwork, and establish support networks, even stronger support has surfaced for these families left behind.

Individuals, businesses, communities and organizations have committed themselves in support of the Fort Carson families, all of which have been affected by Operation Iraqi Freedom. One such organization is the Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Charitable Association.

"We're always here," said Marie Langford, president of the organization. Whether in times of war or peace, our organization is committed to serving our military community, our military families."

Although the organization raises tens of thousands of dollars for educational scholarships and financial donations, it is also a source of support and camaraderie.

"Through the monthly functions and the major fund-raising efforts, many spouses have gotten involved and realized the huge contribution this organization makes

to the community," said Sonia Scott, second vice president.

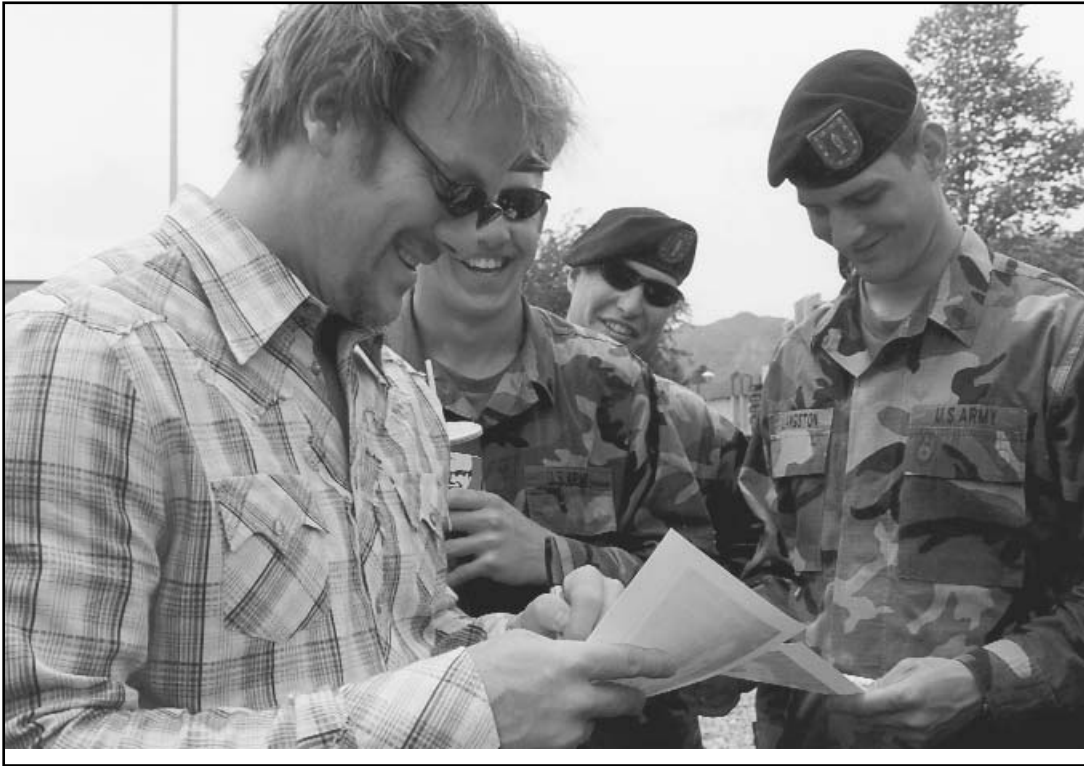
The hard work of many individuals and the wonderful support of the community has enabled the FCOSCA to give back more than \$22,000 to the Fort Carson and Colorado Springs communities this year. Included in this amount was \$9,900 worth of educational scholarships for graduating high school family members, continuing education dependants, and also military spouses. One winner, Jennifer Kaji, was thrilled by the announcement that she had been chosen to receive \$900.

"This was an additional motivator," said Kaji. "After hearing the news I signed up for my first (college) class."

Financial donations were also awarded to many deserving organizations and events. The recipients of the donations range from military to civilian organizations.

One example of community support is the promotion of special events held at Fort Carson. These events range from Sky Sox Military Appreciation Night, Kinderfest, National Night Out, Soldier Show 2003, Holiday Village and much more.

The FCOSCA, which distributed \$21,225 in donations in 2002-2003, will be hosting its fourth annual Golf Tournament May 30 at the Fort Carson Golf Course. All proceeds raised from this tournament will be given back in educational scholarships and financial donations. For more information on this tournament, call 559-7100.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dee McNutt

Country star ...

(Above) Phil Vassar, the New Male Country Artist of the Year for 2002, autographs pictures for 222nd Field Artillery soldiers at Garcia Physical Fitness Center Saturday. (Right) Vassar signs the T-shirt of Stephanie Schwanz, family member. Vassar visited Fort Carson to help build morale for soldiers. He said wherever he goes on tour he stops at military installations to show support to the men and women in uniform.



Carson Earth Day tardy but well attended

by Spc. Matt Millham
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Earth Day came late to Fort Carson this year, but its tardiness did little to stifle the excitement of the roughly 300 fourth- and fifth-grade students brought from Abrams and Mountainside elementary schools on a field trip to a patch of land behind Carson Middle School called the "Green Belt."

Recently converted to a sort of small-scale sanctuary, the Green Belt provided the backdrop for a day of activities designed to teach students to appreciate the earth's natural environment called "Earth, I love this place!"

The students plodded their way from one of five stations to the next, learning about water conservation, archaeology, Xeriscaping and native plants, what to do when encountering wild animals, and minimizing human impact on wild areas.

Andrew Dickens, a fifth-grade teacher at Abrams who brought his class to the event, said the Earth Day program, organized by Fort Carson's Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management, was exceptional.

"The kids really enjoy it," he said. "They love learning about the animals."

At the animal station, a stuffed bobcat, fox, bear and rattlesnake posed on the back of a truck, all at constant states of alert.

"Are all of those animals there real?" asked one Abrams' fourth-grader as he and his classmates mobbed the truck for petting space.

"They were once," said Bobby Day, a wildlife technician at DECAM's wildlife office.

At another station called "leave no trace," the students learned what to put into a wilderness survival kit, what to do to minimize their impact on wild areas and what to do if they get lost. Some students seemed surprised to find out they shouldn't have a gun in their kit.

"You only want to have that if it's hunting season," said Leonard Cook, who works for DECAM's agronomy program.

Back at the wild animal station, Day told the students just to stop and enjoy the opportunity if they see animals in the wild. His message was "if you don't mess with them, they won't mess with you" — he illustrated this by pointing out that about 80 percent of all snake bites happen to people who knew the snake was there before they were bitten.

But it wasn't all wilderness and wildlife. At the water conservation station, Richard Pilatzke, DECAM's water program manager, told the students about the local cost of water. Water is relatively inexpensive in Colorado because the state has such a small population, he told them. The ongoing drought, though, has put stresses on local water supplies and conservation is needed to address the issue, he said.

Preserving the Earth is the basic idea behind Earth Day, and preserving its past was the idea of a station about archaeology. There, students learned how artifacts left by humans provide

clues about past interactions between humans and nature.

The fifth and the most expensive station — DECAM purchased almost \$5,000 worth of plants to put in the Green Belt during the event — taught students about native plants and plants that require very little water to survive. A number of Suzanne Hanna's Mountainside fourth-graders were disappointed when the skunk bush failed to provide the expected bad scent, but were wowed when DECAM's James Kulbeth of the agronomy program told them how much water was needed to keep the grass on a football field green — 4 feet of water per year, he said.

More than an ordinary field trip, the Earth Day program was the culmi-

nating event following classroom lessons about the environment and a number of competitions, including an essay contest, a recycling contest and a drawing contest.

"The Earth Day activities are just part of the whole science curriculum," said Dickens. "A really nice benefit of this is that it prepares them for middle school science classes," he said.

"I'm quite comfortable saying that no other program has been as active as we've been this year," said Danny Gray, of DECAM's Forestry Tech office.

With the school year almost complete, summer is sure to take most children outdoors and most of the water out of Colorado's lawns. The Earth Day program came at the right time.



Photo by Spc. Matt Millham

Students from the Carson Middle School learn about animals during the Earth Day celebration on Fort Carson.

Chaplain's Corner

Memorial Day — a reminder to enjoy our freedom

**Commentary by Chap. (1st Lt.) Roger Benimoff
4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery**

It is that time of the year when we remember the sacrifice that has been made and is being made so we can enjoy the gift of freedom.

Memorial day is a reminder of something that is dear and personal to servicemembers and families in the military. Today, our nation, and our loved ones are engaged in the pursuit of freedom, and many can attest to the costliness of such an undertaking. And yet, if we are not cognizant, the memory can quickly fade as time passes. In the process, the price that has been paid for our freedom simply becomes just a memory.

The Christian life can be similar. When we first start off, we are excited to follow God but with time, our passion and focus can fade away. We get involved in a job, or a relationship, and the memory of our life change can grow faint.

Think back for a minute: For some, the journey on the Christian road is new and for others it has been some time. When we first became aware of our inner need for God, we were dependent on him for our necessities and our wants. We realized our need for a redeemer, a deliverer, and the costliness of his son's sacrifice was close to our hearts. We were excited to follow God but with time, our memory could have blurred. Everyone goes

through times where the things of life can suffocate our relationship with God. Jesus describes this process in the book of Matthew with the parable of the farmer who scattered seed on soil.

He explains that a farmer scattered some seed and it fell among thorns. The seed grew into a plant, but the thorns choked out the tender blades of the plant. Jesus continues to explain that the thorny ground represents those who hear the word and accept the good news, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life and the lure of wealth, so no crop is produced. In other words, the person who hears the word of God and accepts it starts out strong, but something happens along the way. The person is distracted and loses focus.

What can we do about this? I believe that the Apostle Paul gives us an answer in the book of Hebrews. He uses the analogy of a runner who runs a race. He states, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ..." and "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." In this passage, he speaks about keeping our eyes focused on the maker as we journey day after day in the Christian life. It is taking one day at a time and persevering through the times of joy and the times of sorrow where we will achieve our goal of following God. The memory of this will be present in our minds as we continue to keep our eyes on God. God's presence is amongst us and he will provide the focus and the perseverance that we need to complete the journey.

SCUBA is coming

A "Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure" will be the 2003 Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon, at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel June 16 to 20. Children age 4 through 6th grade may attend. Registration is ongoing at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel, but space is limited. For information, call Pat Treacy, 526-5744.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-W-F	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-5769
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Stahl/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CCD	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Jim Sciegel/526-5744
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7386
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Stahl/526-5769

EASTERN ORTHODOX

Sunday	8 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Olson/526-5772
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PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Simmons/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Drake/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Protestant	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Atkins/524-1822
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Kincaid/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Pair/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Pair/526-2811
Sunday	6:30 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/524-1166

LITURGICAL PROTESTANT

Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Bauer/526-5279
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JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

WICCA

2nd and 4th Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Spiritual Fitness Center	Barkeley & Ellis	Ms. Costantino-Mead/ (303) 428-7703
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For additional information, contact the Installation Chaplain's Office, building 1550, at 526-5209. Normally, free child-care is available during on-post worship services.

Volunteers impact services, programs around post

There is room for everyone to volunteer at Fort Carson. Join the Mountain Post Volunteer Team — make a difference in your life and in the lives of others.



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Members of the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard leave the barn area at Turkey Creek Ranch, headed for the arena. On nonperformance days, the color guard runs the horses through a practice of jumps, rifle shooting and sabre drills.



Sp. Raegen Robertson trims the mane of Pfc. Trump.



Sgt. Rodney Myers shoots a target while riding Cpl. Billy at a full gallop.



Mounted color guard members practice show routines at the arena at Turkey Creek Recreation Area.

Home On The Range

Story and photos
by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

The blue Army uniform was typical for an 1873 soldier serving his country. That soldier would be riding an Army steed on a McClellan saddle. He'd have an Army issued sabre and a Springfield rifle.

Members of the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard wear a reproduction 1873 uniform, carry a reproduction Springfield rifle and throw a McClellan saddle on the Army-owned horses they ride at special ceremonies and community events.

The rest of the time the six soldiers assigned to the color guard wear what they call "Wranglers and chambray" on regular duty days.

A typical work day for these cowboy soldiers begins with physical training at 6:30 a.m., just like other soldiers throughout the post. After PT, these soldiers feed the 13 horses on active duty with the guard.

One horse, Sgt. Major Boxer, is retired from active duty and has been put out to pasture.

Following breakfast, the horses are groomed and saddled. The rest of the day is devoted to perfecting routines used in ceremonies and events. The day ends when the horses are fed and back in their stalls.

The color guard makes more than 230 appearances each year, many of them in the local area or throughout Colorado, according to Sgt. Randy Myers, noncommissioned officer in charge of the guard. The guard also made trips to Idaho, Montana, Washington, Texas, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Members of the color guard may work seven days a week during the summer, depending on the appearance schedule.

But it's not bad duty. "I love this job," said Sp. Raegen Robertson, who's been around horses all his life.

There are six soldiers assigned to the color guard with openings for two more soldiers.

Soldiers who know their way around horses, can demonstrate good riding skills and knowledge of horse care can try out for the color guard. Call 526-4985 for information.

"Tryouts are scheduled for Thursdays when soldiers are interested," Myers said.

There have been soldiers with horses at Fort Carson since the 1960s, Myer said. "The Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard marched in the inaugural parade for President Carter."

"All soldiers (in the color guard) still have to be soldiers," said Sgt. Mike Najera. "They have different MOSs (Military Occupational Specialties) and must keep up."

The horses are held to the standard for performance horses. They are weighed and taped regularly to make sure they aren't too fat or too skinny. The horses have ranks, ranging from private to first sergeant. The horses also get promoted. "Like the soldiers, promotion is based on attitude and perfor-

mance," said Pfc. Carlton Brewington.

Regular practice and appearances have paid off for the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard.

The group recently returned from competition at the annual Cavalry Association in Fort Worth, Texas. The color guard was the only active duty group, competing with cavalry enactor groups.

Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard brought home nine trophies and ribbons.

Brewington won a first place in jumping, a second in pistol, third in dressage, the director's cup in overall, including sabre, pistol and jump and was named overall champion.

Robertson received a third in jump, Sp. Josh Connors won a third in pistol shooting and Myers placed third in mounted sabre and was named winner of the authenticity award in portraying the 1870s era.

This was the first time the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard entered the Cavalry competition.



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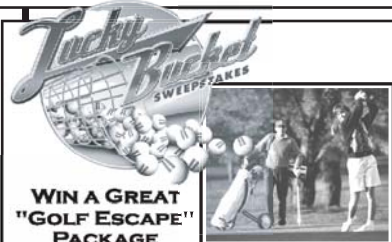
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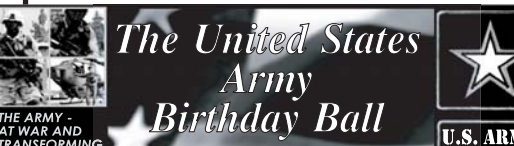
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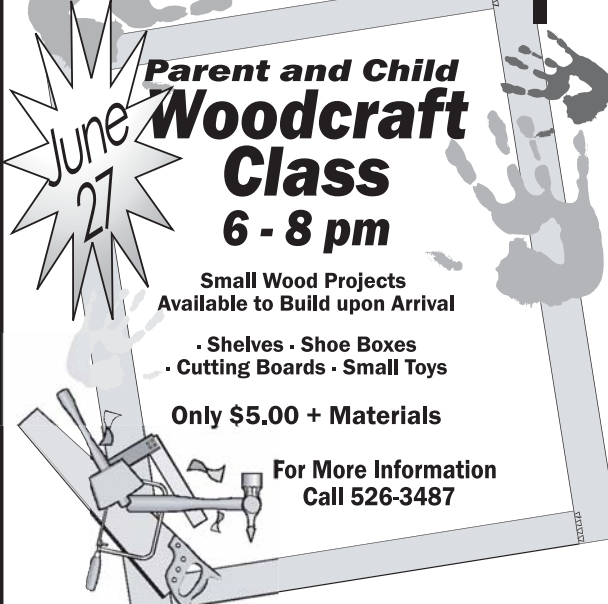
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Sports & Leisure

Eagles' 7th-grade girls ...

Jump into a 4th place finish



Photos by Bill Scharton

Candice McCollum soars into the sand pit, setting a personal best of 28-5 in the triple jump Saturday at the league meet in Fountain. McCollum placed sixth and earned points for the Eagles' 8th-grade girls team.



Carson Middle School 7th-grade girls high jumper Crystal Grandberry shows the form that earned her a first place finish in the event Saturday at the Tri-County league meet. Grandberry set a new school record with 4-10 in the event this season.

by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer staff

Carson Middle School track and field competitor Crystal Grandberry demonstrated Saturday why she is the best 7th-grade girls' high and long jumper in the entire Pikes Peak region.

Grandberry captured first place in both the high jump and long jump in the 7th-grade girls' competition at the 14-team Tri-County League finale at the Fountain-Fort Carson High School Sports Complex. She cleared 4-8 in the high jump and soared 13-2 3/4 in the long jump. The 4-8 clear in the high jump was also as good as the top 8th-grade girls' effort.

Earlier in the season, Grandberry set a new Eagles' 7th-grade girls school record in the high jump with a leap of 4-10. Grandberry will return to Carson Middle School as an 8th-grader next year and she has her sights set on the 5-0 barrier.

"I was undefeated in the high jump this season," Grandberry beamed, following the blue ribbon league win. "I will keep going, and I will get better."

The two blue ribbon wins by Grandberry paced the way for an Eagles' fourth place finish in the 7th-grade girls, team standings.

Jasmine Small also picked up points for the Eagles with a second place toss in the discus and sprinter. Candice Buckles placed fourth in the 200-meter dash.

The Eagles' 7th-grade girls relay teams also had outstanding performances Saturday. The 800-meter relay team of Demi DeLoach, Ashley Arney, Krystina Richardson and Buckles brought home the first place blue rib-

bon by a wide margin. The 400-meter relay team of DeLoach, Grandberry, Richardson and Buckles placed second by a narrow margin.

Sprinters Kiara Pittman and Zoria Brooks earned points for the Eagles' 8th-grade girls contingent. Brooks placed third in the 400-meter dash and Pittman finished fourth in the 200-meter dash. Candice McCollum scored points with a sixth place finish in the triple jump.

The fearsome foursome of Pittman, Brooks, Ashley Ricks and Kelly Parker ran both relays for the Eagles and placed second in both races. The Eagles' 8th-grade girls placed sixth as a team.

The Eagles' 7th-grade boys finished in 11th place as a team. Rodney Watson scored points taking fifth place in the long jump and a sixth place in the 110-meter hurdles. Terrance Hutchins picked up points with sixth place finishes in both the long jump and triple jump. The 400-meter relay team of Hutchins, Watson, Jason Schatz and Jerry Ventura placed fourth.

Eagles' 8th-grade boys competitor Emanuel Taylor was the only point-getter for the squad. He placed fourth in the shot put and the team finished 12th overall.

In addition to Grandberry's new school standard in the high jump, the other new school marks set in 2003 include Brooks in the 8th-grade girls 400-meter dash (1:08.08) and the 8th-grade girls fearsome foursome 400-meter relay team of Pittman, Brooks, Ricks and Parker (55.58).

See Track, Page 24



Carson Middle School 8th-grade girls relay anchor leg Kiara Pittman gets edged out by the slightest of margins Saturday at the Tri-County league meet.

Off to a good start ...

Mountaineers win opener

by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer Staff

The Lady Mountaineers competitive slowpitch softball team started Colorado Springs Park and Recreation league play in impressive fashion May 14 with a 21-15 victory over Joe's Bar.

An 11-run offensive outburst in the bottom of the first inning gave the Lady Mountaineers a big 11-2 lead early in the contest. The 11-run eruption featured a grand slam home run by pitcher Kristy Trahan and a run scoring triple by player/coach and designated hitter Catherine Satow.

Joe's Bar tallied six runs in the top of the second inning to narrow the gap to 11-8. In the bottom half of the frame, Lady Mountaineers' outfielder Pam Norris knocked in two runs on a bases loaded single. This made the score 13-8 after two frames.

The Lady Mountaineers played dynamic defense in the top of the third inning and kept Joe's Bar from scoring as a result. In the bottom half of the third inning, the Lady Mountaineers pushed across six more runs taking a commanding 19-8 lead. Satow's bases loaded two-run single was the big blow of the inning.

Joe's Bar scored three in the fourth frame while the Lady Mountaineers tallied two of its own on RBI singles by Trahan and Satow. Joe's Bar moved four more runners across the plate in the top of the fifth inning before being shut down by the Lady Mountaineers. League game number one went to the Lady Mountaineers by the final count of 21-15.

"It feels good to win this first one," Satow said to

the team following the victory. "We will continue to get better from here."

"We outit the opponent and made smart decisions in the field most of the time."

The Lady Mountaineers played a doubleheader Wednesday night and will be back in action at 6 p.m. May 28. All games are played on Field 4 at the Skyview Softball Complex.



Photo by Bill Scharton

Pam Norris beats out a single for the Lady Mountaineers during the first league game of the season May 14. This hit plated two runs for the Lady Mountaineers in the bottom of the second inning.

Wellness Center to participate in the National Senior Health and Fitness Day

The Mountain Post Wellness Center will participate in the 10th anniversary of the National Senior Health and Fitness Day Wednesday.

Seniors are invited to stop by the Mountain Post Wellness Center any time between the regular business hours of 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mountain Post Wellness Center is located on the second floor of building 1526, 1500 Wetzel Avenue.

A variety of senior health related activities and information will be available at the center. Health screenings will also be offered during the day.

An estimated 150,000 older adults are expected to participate in local fitness activities throughout the country as part of the 10th anniversary event. The event is always held on the last Wednesday in May as part of Older Americans Month activities.

The common goal for this day is to help keep older Americans healthy and fit. National Senior Health and Fitness Day is the nation's largest annual health promotion event for older adults.

For additional information, call the Mountain Post Wellness Center at 526-3887 or visit the www.fitness.com Web site.

Memorial Day softball tournaments

One-pitch Memorial Day intramural slowpitch softball tournaments are under way at the Mountain Post Sports Complex.

The coed league tournament started Monday and the title tilt is slated for today at 7 p.m. on the Mt. Lincoln field.

The Mount Oxford league and Mount Belford league tournaments started this week and the tournament championship games are scheduled for Wednesday at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

The Mt. Yale league tournament began today and the tourney final will be at 7 p.m. June 4.

Dog days of summer ...

Freedom Fun Run attracts crowd

by **Bill Scharton**
Mountaineer Staff

Jeff Prata left the rest of the runners in his dust and he even forced his pet dog Moxie to quit during the running of the 10-kilometer Freedom Fun Run Saturday morning.

Prata crossed the finish line first in approximately 38 minutes. But he had to cross the line alone because his pet just couldn't keep pace.

"Moxie had to retire after about 4.5 miles," Prata said following the run. "I think Moxie needs to get in better shape."

Prata runs competitively and used the Freedom Fun Run to train for this week's Bolder Boulder. He said he planned to put in another eight miles before the day was done.

Another runner, Terry Batson, might have given Prata a run for his money had he not gone off course a couple of times. "The arrows on the course confused me and I went the wrong way a couple of times," Batson said. "I turned the 10K into a 12K." Race official Lamont Spencer figured Batson was on his way to Pueblo during one point in the race.

The event, which started and finished at the Special Events Center, was sponsored by the Association of the United States Army, the Military Officers Association of America and the Fort Carson Directorate of Community Activities.

"We are very pleased to be one of the sponsors of this event," said retired Sgt. Maj. Lon Hardy, a vice

president of membership for the AUSA. "All of the proceeds from this event will go to the Fort Carson running team."

Awards were presented to runners in the following categories: oldest, youngest, largest family,

largest unit, ugliest dog and most patriotic dressed runner.

"This truly is a low key fun run," said DCA

See Fun Run, Page 24



Photos by Bill Scharton

Military, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and dogs listen to instructions prior to the start of the 10-kilometer Freedom Fun Run Saturday at the Special Events

Track

From Page 21

Head coach Rose Terrell and assistant coaches Mark Perkins and Justin Arnell gave out the annual track and field awards Wednesday evening.

Athletic Excellence awards went to Jasmine Small and Candice Buckles (7th-grade girls), Terrance Hutchins (7th-grade boys), Amanda Davis and Kathryn Clouser (8th-grade girls) and Josh Nichols, LaJon Caldwell and Emanuel Taylor (8th-grade boys).

Outstanding Team Player awards went to Demi DeLoach (7th-grade girls), Jacob Salinas (7th-grade boys), Ashley Broughton (8th-grade girls) and Michael Ventura (8th-grade boys).

Heart and Soul awards went to Tamara Tillman (7th-grade girls), Dominique Staples (7th-grade boys), Candice McCollum (8th-grade girls) and Alexis Rodriguez (8th-grade boys).

School Spirt awards went to Chris Shamlee and Ajasta Blake.

The Address Book humor award went to Josh Nichols, the Tiara humor award went to Kiara Pittman and the Clown Nose humor award went to Allen Johnson.

"It's been a great season," said Terrell. "We just barely missed getting another plaque for the wall."



Ashley Ricks bolts out of the blocks for the Carson Middle School 8th-grade girls 400-meter relay team Saturday at he league meet. This team of Ricks, Kiara Pittman, Zoria Brooks and Kelly Parker placed second at the league meet and established a new school record of 55.58 earlier in the season.

Fun Run

From Page 23

recreation employee Richard Baldwin. "We wanted to give out prizes in categories not usually associated with a race."

Following the adult run, several employees from the Mountain Post Wellness Center coordinated a short children's run.



Jeff Prata gives his pet dog Moxie a drink of water following the completion of the 10K Freedom Fun Run Saturday at the Special Events Center. Prata outran the field and his dog during the race. Moxie had to retire after about 4.5 miles.



Story and photos
by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

As a tribute to the history of the city, a statue of a prospector and his mule, laden with the equipment necessary to dig for gold, marks the entrance to Old Colorado City.

City marks its past with ‘Territory Days’

“Old Colorado City” had its beginning in 1859 when prospectors were coming through this area, heading toward South Park looking for gold. They used the old Ute Indian trail to go through the mountains. Ute Pass, as the trail came to be called, is now Highway 24 West.

While passing through the area, a few of the gold seekers thought they might make money off the other prospectors by selling supplies. These new businessmen started Colorado City with a few buildings. In just one year, the town had grown to a bustling city with some 300 buildings. At that point in history, this area was part of the Kansas territory.

The town of Colorado City grew. It was perhaps a stereotypical western town such as depicted in old western movies. Stage coaches arrived regularly from Denver and Cañon City. Saloons

were busy — all 21 of them. Bordellos were tucked behind the saloons. Colorado City could be described as “wild and woolly.” At least one part of town could be described that way.

But there were two sides to Colorado City. The other part of town contained the churches, the opera house and the families. Gentlemen on the “good side” of town used some 12 miles of underground tunnels to cross to the “bad side” of town — sight unseen. The tunnel networks still exist, according to the Colorado City History Center. The tunnels are closed off and unused.

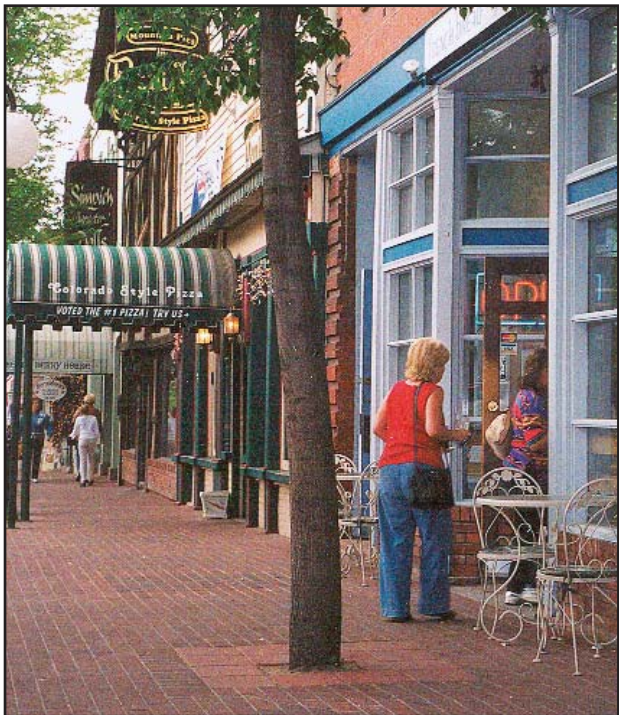
Just a few years later, Colorado City got its 15 minutes of fame when it was named the first capitol of the Colorado Territory. The Colorado Territorial Legislature convened in Colorado City in 1862. After four days of meetings and politics, the Denver delegates managed to get the capitol moved to Denver.

Bancroft Park, in the heart of Colorado City, contains a log cabin which is credited with housing that first legislature.

For 27 years the citizens of Old Colorado City have gone back to their roots and celebrate “Territory Days,” a gigantic street fest. The fest is to remind people of the history of Old Colorado City and the impact and importance this settlement had on the state of Colorado.

For three days, beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, food vendors, crafters, artisans and entertainers set up between 24th and 27th streets along Colorado Avenue. Foods include buffalo burgers, turkey legs and other delicious treats.

Radio stations will broadcast live from the fest. Live entertainment will be in Bancroft Park, including a program “Let Freedom Ring” at noon Monday. Patriotic music will be pre-



Pizza and French soups and baked goods are among the food choices in Old Colorado City.

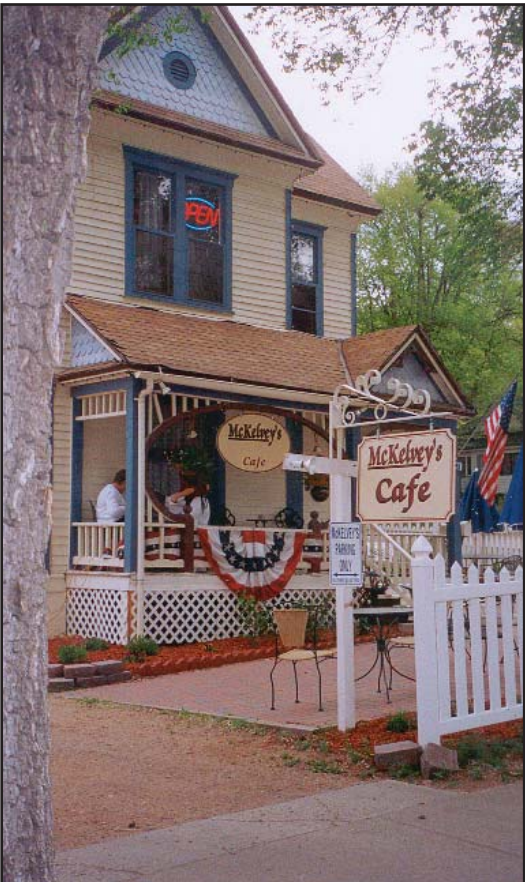
sented by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra and the Colorado Springs Conservatory.

Probably the best fest in the area, Territory Days attracts thousands. Because of road construction, parking will be severely limited. A shuttle bus will transport fest-goers from the parking lot at Coronado High School on West Fillmore, beginning at 9:45 a.m. The fare is \$1 for a round trip.

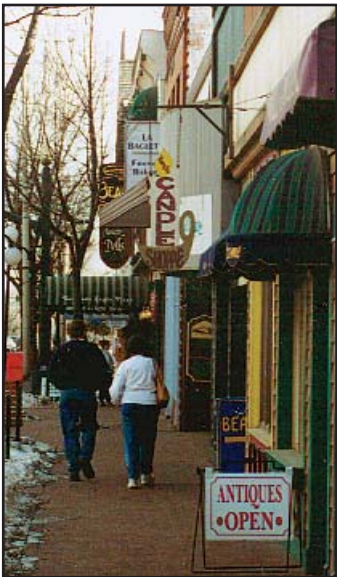
Visitors are asked to leave all pets at home.

A good place to learn about the history of Old Colorado City is by visiting the historical society, located in the historic church at 1 N. 24th Street at the northeast corner of Bancroft Park. The center displays a pictorial history of Colorado City through the years.

Colorado City had a glassworks company and an iron works company, as well as the largest paint factory west of the Mississippi. Colorado City prospered when gold was discovered in Cripple Creek. Four gold mills were built in Colorado City to process Cripple Creek gold ore. The ore was



Cafes and other businesses are in some of the Victorian houses in Old Colorado City.



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.
May 22, 2003

City

From Page 31

brought downhill on the Short Line Railroad to be processed at the gold mills. The tall, lone cream-colored round smoke stack on the south side of Highway 24 West between 8th Street and 21st Street, is the last remnant of the gold mill industry.

The Midland Railway roundhouse repair terminal was in Colorado City. Many of the red brick buildings along Colorado Avenue were built during the gold rush, as were many of the Victorian houses.

When the gold ran out in Cripple Creek, citizens of Colorado City also were affected. There was no gold ore for the trains to haul and no passengers who wanted to take a passenger train to Cripple Creek. Businesses closed and buildings were in disrepair.

During the State of Colorado Centennial in 1976, residents began a restoration movement to restore and preserve historic Colorado City. Benches and old-fashioned light posts were added. People started new businesses in Victorian-era buildings and houses.

Now the six-street area is a charming shopping area and tourist attraction with art galleries, unique restaurants and cafes, antique shops, a candy factory, a doll factory, a French bakery, tea parlors and Christmas shops. Unusual goods such as Mexican pots, rugs light posts and garden statuary are sold. There's a sports bar decorated with old movie props and gift shops galore.

There's pizza, barbecue, Mexican food and Greek food. Shops specializing in clothing for children or adults, teddy bears, lace and crafts are along Colorado Avenue.

Other places to visit include the Simpich Doll Factory where artists create dolls on site.



The historic shopping district in Old Colorado City has been restored. Old-fashioned lights and benches add to the charm.

There's Michael Garman's figure/sculpture showroom in a Victorian-era store. Garman's figurines are well known and frequently presented at military hails and farewells. The store has an excellent selection of soldier figures, such as the buffalo soldier, drill sergeant, helicopter pilot and several others. Also in the Garman store is "Magic Town," a 1940s-era small town, built in 1/6 scale. There are businesses, a theater, apartments and shops brought to life by scenes, people, sounds and halograms. Magic Town's admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children, and has a money-back guarantee.

Still in Old Colorado City, east of the historical district, is a Salvation Army store which specializes in antiques and vintage clothing and a Goodwill store.

At the corner of 21st Street and Cimarron are two places popular with tourists: Van Briggles Pottery Co., which offers free tours and the nearby "Ghost Town," a Victorian town.

In addition to Territory Days, other special events are held in Old Colorado City, such as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. A Farmer's Market takes place in Bancroft Park Saturdays during summer and early fall.

To reach Old Colorado City, take



Michael Garman Galleries has a large selection of soldier statuettes to choose from.



A doll gets the finishing touches at the Simpich Character Doll Factory in Old Colorado City.

Interstate 25 north to the Cimarron Exit, then take Cimarron west (U.S. Highway 24 West) to 21st Street. Go north a few blocks to Colorado Avenue, then turn west.

The Old Colorado Historic District runs from 22nd Street to 28th Streets. Parking is street side (with meters) or in several free parking lots located along West Colorado Avenue and behind the shops which face Colorado Avenue. During Territory Days, a shuttle bus will run from Coronado High School to the fest site.



Bancroft Park is the site for a Farmer's Market and fest activities in Old Colorado City.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time** 25 minutes
- **For ages** all
- **Type** historic city, street fest
- **Fun factor** ★★★★★
- **Wallet damage** free entry, buy food

\$ = Less than \$20

\$\$ = \$21 to \$40

\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$80

(Based on a family of four)

Get Out!

The Pikes Peak International Raceway opens with the Cruise America AMA Superbike races May 30, 31 and June 1. Fridays events are free to the public. Tickets are available for the rest of the weekend at 382-7223 for half price for military.

New Zoo exhibit

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo opens its new exhibit, the African Rift Valley Friday. Giraffes, gazelles, hippos and lions will share the valley with other hooved animals from the zoo in a natural setting. The zoo is at 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road. Parking is free. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3 to 11. Children 2 and under are admitted free.

Arts fest

The annual Manitou Springs Memorial Weekend festival includes three days of arts, crafts, food and music in the park next to City Hall Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Free admission; refreshments will be sold.

Got milk?

The Milk Mustache Mobile Shake Stuff Up Tour is in town Saturday and Tuesday. Activities include a battle of the bands, karaoke and competition for a "got milk" mustache photo. Activities Sunday are at the Wal-Mart, 1575 Space Center Dr., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday at the Chapel Hills Mall from 5 to 9 p.m. Log on to www.whymilk.com for information.

Denver Theater

"Footloose" is featured at the dinner theater at the Country Dinner Playhouse in south Denver, just off Interstate 25. The buffet begins at 6 p.m. and the performance follows. Tickets start at \$25.50. Call (303) 799-1410. The show runs through June 22.

"Cats" plays in the Buell Theater in downtown Denver June 17 to 22. With 8 p.m. performances and matinees Saturdays and Sundays. Call (800) 641-1222 for tickets which start at \$20.

"Cher" is set for the Pepsi Center in Denver June 17, with tickets starting at \$34.50; call 520-

9090.

"42nd Street" is in Denver's Buell Theatre downtown June 24 through July 6. Tickets start at \$25, call 520-9090.

The melodrama "Rocky Mountain Flyer," by the Cripple Creek Players, begins June 14 in the Butte Opera House in Cripple Creek. Tickets start at \$6.50 and performances are Wednesdays through Sundays. Call (800) 500-2513 for times.

Local theater

"Same Time Next Year" is now playing at the Castaways Dinner Theater, 103 Manitou Ave., in Manitou Springs. Dinner and show are \$33. Show only tickets are available for \$22. Call 685-3700 or 685-3300 for tickets.

"Montana Serenade" is at the Manitou Springs Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave. through September. Dinner and show cost \$23.50 at 685-5104. Dinner is at 6 p.m., with the show at 8 p.m.

Pikes Peak Center's Broadway series next show is "Lord of the Dance," Wednesday and Thursday in the Pikes Peak Center. Call Ticketmaster at 520-9090.

"Stuart Little" is in the Fine Arts Center theater, 30. W. Dale, June 9 to 14. Performed by the Fine Arts Center Theatre for Children, shows are at 10 a.m. and noon. The tickets are \$3; call 634-5583.

"Alison Krauss and Union Station" are set for the Pikes Peak Center Aug. 20. Call Ticketmaster, 520-9090.

"Proof," presented by the Star Bar Players is at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through June 7. There's a matinee at 2 p.m. June 8. The performances are in the Lon Chaney Theater in the City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St. Tickets start at \$10. Call 573-7411 for information.

Denver events

Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake appear together June 23 at the Pepsi Center. Call Ticketmaster at 520-9090. Prices start at \$39.50.

Grammy winner Norah Jones is at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in the Denver area Aug. 15. Tickets are at Ticketmaster, 520-9090.

"The Eagles" are in the Pepsi Center June 24 at 8 p.m.; get tickets at 520-9090.

Street Fest

"Territory Days" are celebrated in Old Colorado City Saturday, Sunday and Monday with food, entertainment, arts, crafts and music. Fun

begins at 10 a.m. Events end at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and at 6 p.m. Memorial Day. There's free entrance and parking is along the streets, unless you want to park at Coronado High School on West Fillmore and take a shuttle bus for \$1.

Bear spectacular

Bear Creek Nature Center presents "Spring Bear Spectacular" May 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Smokey the Bear will be on hand, and wildlife officers will make presentations about the fascinating world of bears. Activities include bear crafts, bear stories and bear face painting. There'll be door prizes coloring contests and food. The cost is \$3 per person. For information, call 520-6387.

Declaration of Independence

A rare copy of the Declaration of Independence will be at the Carnegie Library at Penrose Public Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., June 2 to 11. The declaration will be available from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 2 through 5, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. June 6 and 7, and June 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. Entrance is free.

State Fair concerts

Concert tickets are for sale for the Colorado State Fair at Ticketmaster, 520-9090, and the State Fair Box Office. An appearance by Weird Al Yankovic opens the series Aug. 16. He's followed by Kellie Coffey and Gary Allan and Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo. Other performers are Rascal Flatts; Sawyer Brown; Last Man Standing; Lonestar; Jaci Velasquez; Tom Jones; 3 Doors Down and Chicago. Professional Bull Riders, Super Tough Trucks, a Demolition Derby and Amateur Boxing are also on the agenda. A Charreada Rodeo is at 5 p.m. Aug. 31.

Royal Gorge Bridge

The world's highest suspension bridge at Royal Gorge, about 10 miles west of Cañon City, honors servicemembers during May with half-price entry. Regular admission price is \$18 for adults and \$14 for children 4-11. Children under 3 years of age are admitted for free. Show your ID and get in for half-price.

Chili Cook Off

The're cooking chili in Cripple Creek Saturday, Sunday and Monday, with free live music and chili tasting. Call (877) 858-GOLD or log on www.cripple-creek.co.us for information.

Happenings



Photo courtesy PPIR

Races ...

Pikes Peak International Raceway opens the season May 30, 31 and June 1 with AMA Superbike races. Servicemembers can buy half-price tickets at the track or call 382-7223.



Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to May 30.

Army Newswatch: includes stories on rescued American POWs, Kiowas in Kuwait and Central Command war update (repeat). Airls at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Navy/Marine Corps News: includes stories on sailors returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Earth Day and honors to POW/MIAs (repeat). Airls at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: includes stories on securing northern Iraq, weather forecasters and A-10 maintainers (repeat). Airls at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Channel 9 daily broadcasts SCOLA, foreign

language news broadcasts. Access the schedule at the Fort Carson Web site.

If you have comments on Channel 10 programming or wish to coordinate a broadcast on Channel 10, please contact Chief of Command Information at 526-1241 or via e-mail at CommandInfo@carson.army.mil.

Program times will be published in the *Mountaineer* provided coordination is made one week prior to publication.

If you wish to have a training videotape shown on Channel 9 only, contact the Regional Training Support Center at 526-5111.

For additions to the Community Calendar, please submit an e-mail or clean, typewritten copy of the information to the Public Affairs Office, room 2180, 6151 Specker Ave., Fort Carson, CO 80913 or fax information to 526-1021 no later than the Friday before airing time.